

fighting **Words**

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inside:
mumia abu-jamal
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Demand a New Trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal

"From Mumia to the Minnesota Eight, the real criminals are the cops and the state!"

Aside from being a kick-ass chant heard on the streets of the Twin Cities this summer, this statement goes a long way toward explaining why Anti-Racist Action has been on the front lines in the fight to stop the execution and to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, the only political prisoner on death row in this country. As part of a militant force in the streets, we have succeeded in at least delaying his execution, originally slated for August 17. Now that we have some measure of our own strength as a movement, we are increasing the pressure to demand a new trial and we will not rest until Mumia is free.

Mumia Abu-Jamal began his career as a revolutionary journalist at the age of 14 when he co-founded and became minister of information for the Philadelphia Black Panther Party. Unlike many of his BPP comrades, Mumia lived through the US government's counter-intelligence program, (COINTELPRO). After the demise of the Panthers, Mumia kept up the fight against ongoing racist injustice and police brutality inflicted on Philadelphia's Black community.

Mumia was called "the voice of the voiceless" in Philly, where he won national awards for his radio commentaries in which he dared to speak out for the poor, imprisoned and the oppressed around the world and against his community's abuse at the hands of all branches of the system. At the time Philadelphia was notorious for its callous, brutal and corrupt law enforcement under the leadership of police chief and then mayor, Frank Rizzo.

Mumia's commitment to social justice made him a natural ally of the MOVE organization, a Philadelphia revolutionary naturalist group that had been marked for extinction by the city government. Mumia's honest reporting on the 1978 siege on MOVE headquarters threatened to expose the obvious frame-up that landed nine MOVE members

in prison for 30-100 years. This defense of MOVE earned him the special wrath of the Philadelphia police.

Both the Philadelphia police and the FBI had tried to frame Mumia for various charges throughout his life. They finally succeeded in 1982, when Mumia was convicted of killing police officer Daniel Faulkner. Moonlighting as a cabdriver in the early hours of December 9, 1981, Mumia came upon a familiar scene: a cop beating a Black man bloody. This time it was Mumia's brother. He approached the scene, and a few minutes later, Mumia had been shot in the chest and the police officer had been killed. Dozens of witnesses saw two men running from the scene. Despite his nearly fatal wound, Mumia was severely beaten and tortured even in the hospital.

Mumia's torture at the hands of the state continued in the courtroom. He faced hanging judge Albert Sabo, lifetime member of the Federation of Police and the man who has sentenced the most to death in the country, 85% of them Black. Mumia chose to represent himself but was held in contempt and was absent for much of the rest of the trial. He was assigned a reluctant lawyer who was later disbarred and testified this summer to his own incompetence.

Leonard Weinglass, head of Mumia's legal team, filed an appeal this summer that maps out no less than 19 ways in which the original trial was unconstitutional. The misconduct rife in Mumia's trial falls right in line with

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Mumia Abu-Jamal is the only political prisoner on death row in the United States

They Don't All Wear Sheets **Fighting the Ku Klux Klan in the Midwest**

On Saturday, August 19th, a dozen members of Anti-Racist Action—Minneapolis and two members of Refuse and Resist traveled to Elkhorn, WI to join a protest against a Ku Klux Klan rally.

For over two years, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, (led by Thom Robb) have been aggressively holding rallies in cities and towns across the midwest. The Klan rally in Elkhorn was organized by a more militant splinter group also calling them-

selves the knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

ARA opposes the violently racist, sexist, homophobic and anti-Semitic preachings of the KKK. We believe in confronting them politically and physically, and shutting them down when possible. The Ku Klux Klan has a century-old history of racist violence that includes lynchings, shootings, beatings and arson. It's people's responsibility to stop these fuckers by any means necessary.

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What is **Anti-Racist Action?**

Anti-Racist Action,
a youth-based
anti-racist organi-

zation has consistently and successfully exposed and confronted white supremacist activities in the Twin Cities area. ARA has mobilized hundreds of people in Minneapolis and St. Paul against these racists, and helped build an anti-racist ethic in the youth scene so that white supremacist ideas and activities are not tolerated. Anti-Racist Action also recognizes the importance of exposing and confronting the racism that is accepted and encouraged in this country. Racist, patriarchal legislation and the police, who terrorize and brutalize communities of color by "enforcing the law", are forms of oppression we must take action against in this society.

Anti-Racist Action • P.O. Box 80239 • Mpls, MN 55408

"As if 500 Years is Not Enough" **Three Natives Shot, Two Killed by Police in Standoffs in Canada**

The racist reality of Canadian colonialism again reared its ugly head on September 17 when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) "evacuated" the Shuswap Sundance Defenders to local jails, after rejecting the Defenders' terms for a resolution of the Gustafson Lake conflict.

The standoff between the RCMP and the Defenders at Gustafson Lake has played out a familiar theme in Canadian politics—the lack of respect by the Canadian and provincial governments for Aboriginal sovereignty and Original Title jurisdiction.

The standoff began when rancher Lyle James decided that the Gustafson Lake area, traditionally used by the Shuswap for a burial site and Sundancing ground, was his to graze cattle. Despite Mr. James' inability to produce a legal title, the RCMP mounted a full attack against the Shuswap Defenders. The attack has included a massive media demonization campaign. British Columbia (BC) Premier Mike Harcourt, Federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin, BC Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh, and the RCMP call the Defend-

ers "criminals," "terrorists," and "renegades." A major local newspaper, the Vancouver Sun, has referred to the group as "right-wing new world order cult fanatics" to inflame public sentiment against the Shuswap Nation and to aggravate existing racial tensions.

The Shuswap's legal battle for their land and freedom is still far from over. Recently the Defenders' lawyer was jailed for contempt, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer, and the seventeen "evacuated" Defenders await their own legal hassles. Your support is urgently requested. From locations within Canada, call the RCMP complaints line as often as possible at 1-800-665-6878. Others, write S.I.S.I.S (Settlers In Support of Indigenous Sovereignty), PO Box 8673, Victoria, BC, Canada V8X 3S2, or ARA Minneapolis for more information.

In related news, a two year occupation of Camp Ipperwash by some members of the Kettle and Stony Point settlement continues. The Canadian government stole 2,000 acres of land from this indigenous community in 1942 under the War Mea-

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Mumia Abu-Jamal

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all the police criminal activity that is currently coming to light all across the US. To neutralize Mumia's powerful voice, police officers lied on the stand, issued death threats to witnesses, tore up witnesses' statements if they disagreed with their version of events, neglected to call witnesses to the stand, declined to release witnesses addresses to the defense and offered convicted criminals deals to lie on the stand. At the sentencing stage of his trial, Mumia's participation in the Black Panther Party was used to argue for a death sentence. Using political affiliation in this way was determined to be unconstitutional in the case of a white supremacist whose death sentence was overturned on these grounds. Mumia's appeal on this matter was refused.

This summer Governor Ridge signed Mumia's death warrant and set the date for Mumia's execution by lethal injection for August 17th. This act set off demonstrations around the world and launched

persing. The Twin Cities Coalition to Defend Mumia grew drastically after the warrant was signed and planned for the weeks ahead to stop Mumia's execution with educational events, flyering, and a militant presence on Twin Cities streets. The same kind of activity went on in cities around the US and the world.

In Philadelphia, Mumia and his legal team went back in front of their original, now 74 years old and semi-retired "prosecutor in robes," Judge Albert Sabo with their petition for a new trial. Refusing to accept the petition, Sabo ordered that Mumia's team produce witnesses to attest to the need for a new trial. To make a long story short, escalating resistance and the threat of social disorder weighed heavily on Sabo and forced him, with only 10 days remaining till Mumia's execution, to sign the first stay of execution he has ever issued!!!

While willing to celebrate a bit, organizers were quick to call on us all to press ahead and build on our victories. Mumia still sits on death row and he has still not won a new trial. On Friday Sept. 15th

Sabo ruled against a new trial for Mumia, again sparking actions around the world. In the Twin Cities we had a small but spirited demo where we cast a Sabo puppet in some rousing street theater and later set him aflame.

Mumia's legal team is currently appealing his case to the

Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Now is the time to call, write or fax these justices and demand a new trial for Mumia. One contact is included here. For more information, call the hotline number. We need your help! We meet every Wednesday at 7pm at Arise! Bookstore, 2441 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

**To Support Mumia, write or call:
Justice Robert N.C. Nix Jr.
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Widener Bldg #500
One South Penn SQ
Philadelphia PA 19107
phone: 215-580-3071 / fax: 215-580-3070**

the beginnings of a growing movement and all-out emergency effort to save Mumia's life.

Minneapolis pulled off the first response in the world to Ridge's signing of the death warrant. Our peaceful but spirited demonstration panicked the MPD who doused the crowd with pepper spray and indiscriminately arrested protesters as we were dis-



Anti-Racist Action Copwatch has been going out every other Friday or Saturday night for eight months. Our "beat" is on Hennepin Avenue from 9th to 5th Streets in downtown Minneapolis, although we have taken Copwatch to the West Bank, and intend to expand to other areas of the city. We talk to people, and hand out information about ARA and what to do if you are arrested, and of course, watch the police. During arrests and traffic stops, we are witnesses to police conduct and intervene as much as possible. When we are loud and threatening enough, the police sometimes will let the person they were arresting go and focus their attention on us.

We carry a camera and often a video camera to remind police that their actions are not going unnoticed. It also gives the people walking around downtown the message that the police need to be watched. If people realize the cops' authority can be questioned they will be willing to question it themselves. It helps build the already-existing anti-cop culture. Also, it's a great way to piss off the cops.

Anti-Racist Action is not the first group of people to realize that cops need to be watched. People have been randomly observing and interfering with police activity since cops have been abusing their authority (always!).

The Black Panthers were the first group to organize people specifically to watch the pigs. At that time it was legal to carry guns as long as they weren't concealed, so the Panthers armed themselves to

defend their neighborhoods from police violence and harassment. Huey Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, also armed himself with intricate knowledge of the laws, so he could come back at the cops when they lied about the people's rights. Cops inaccurately stating and twisting laws happens way too much. The Panthers proved that standing up to the police and preventing brutality is self-defense.

Anti-Racist Action recognizes the police force as one of the most oppressive institutions in many people's lives, especially people of color and working class people. It's hard to find anyone who hasn't been harassed, arrested, or assaulted by the police. For people of color, especially young men, it isn't even a question of whether or not it's happened, but how many times. ARA sees taking a stand against cops as a move against a type of racism that is slightly more disguised than nazi skinhead violence but is actually more concrete and real. Being beaten up by a nazi is fucked up but at least it's not allowed and encouraged by the law.

The racism and harassment we see from the pigs is blatant. For instance, a group of drunk white men in business suits can stumble along downtown harassing women and "disturbing the peace". What do the police do? NOTHING. But any group of African American or Native American men or women will get threatened with detox or jail if they stand on a corner too long. Because they are seen as a "threat to people's (rich white folks', dominant society's) safety". It is just so damn obvious

Native Standoffs

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sures Act, a "short-term" suspension of the Canadian constitution which has been used to build a "temporary" army base which has now lasted 50 years. The Canadian government and the military have ignored the Natives' claim until the people occupied the camp and drove the military out. They cannot use the court systems to further their claim because the land was "legally" taken away under the Act.

Tensions at the camp continue to escalate. This fall the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) murdered 34-year-old Anthony George, a member of the Kettle and Stoney Point Indian Band in northern Ontario, and 14-year-old Nicholas Cottrelle, who was shot in the back and delayed on his way to the hospital by the police checkpoint. Bernard George, a member of the band council, was severely beaten when he tried to negotiate with police at a road block. None of the victims were armed.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported several different versions of the shootings. Their latest "police returning fire" story suggests police innocence. The Mohawk Nation News Service tells a different story: the OPP tried to remove the road block when a fist fight ensued, successfully driving the OPP away. Over 50 riot police returned that evening, stormed the gate and opened fire on the people in the camp. Two people have been murdered by the state, but the people at Ipperwash are not leaving and they are unarmed.

ARA supports the sentiment expressed in a letter of protest to the Prime Minister of Canada from the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake: "We have remained silent for some time now in the hope that your governments could finally come to terms honorably with our rights to sovereign control of our lands and destiny. You have always said that all you needed was just a little more time—as if 500 years is not enough. And what have you given to our people with that little more time? You have given to us more guns, more bullets, more violence, more threats, more empty fascist rhetoric about your law and order, all at the expense of justice for our people."

what the pigs' agenda is. They aren't even subtle about it.

Although it's not only white folks who do Copwatch, we are often perceived as a white group. Being seen as "white" can be an advantage. It gives us the privilege to take things further with the police. We can get away with things cops would never tolerate from people of color, such as taunting and yelling at them. It is important for white folks to take a stand against the cops, to show we are not all loyal to this oppressive system.

Copwatch Rated Number Eight In Police Federation "1994 Top Ten Cop Bashers" List

"8) COPWATCH - In case you haven't seen them, they are that nameless, faceless group that prowls Hennepin Ave. looking for police abuse. Emblazoned with shirts and jackets with the words, "cop watch". These self-proclaimed guarantors of government-free harassment, piously put blinders on drug deals, panhandlers, drunks, thieves and prostitutes in order to monitor the real scourge on society - the cops! (See, even they realize what's up! -eds.) Their presence, obviously encourage tourism and visits to downtown by the suburbanites, as they are rest assured that they will be safe from police abuse - unlike legions of their kind before the advent of COP WATCH." **From Show-Up**



Anti-Racists in Wisconsin Confront Cops and Klan

Fighting The Ku Klux Klan

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This is not an issue of censorship because the government goes to great lengths to protect the Klan wherever they choose to show their ugly faces.

The protest started with an angry high-energy march to the courthouse where we were greeted by well over 100 riot cops, including rooftop snipers assigned to protect the Klan from us. Tactically we weren't sure what to do. Should we all go through metal detectors into the pens the cops had set up for us, then stand 30 ft. from the Klan and yell insults at them, or stay outside? When people from Minneapolis ARA spotted a small crew of nazi skinheads waiting to see the Klan, the decision got easier. We realized we could confront racist scumbags on our own terms.

During one of these confrontations, two anti-racists were arrested. One for pointing out, over the sound system that the pigs were continually jumping in confrontations and always siding with the nazis. The second, for expressing outrage at the prior unjust arrest.

Although most protesters were probably already anti-cop, watching pigs go to great lengths to protect Klan supporters, not to mention snipers on the roof pointing their guns at you, made it clear the Klan was not the only organized group of racists we had to battle that day. Chanting "boys in blue are racist too," and "cops and the Klan go hand-in-hand," we spent the day confronting the cops as well as the Klan and their supporters.

After the rally was over the majority of protesters stuck around demanding the release of the two anti-racists from Milwaukee. Walking around Elkhorn it was hard to tell which side the locals were on. Even some counter-cultural youth supported the fascists. That is except for one local girl who stuck her neck out and was very vocal in confronting the Klan. She was arrested under the order of her uncle, a local cop.

In the future it would be cool if ARA could talk to groups we knew were going to Klan rallies to organize and plan strategy and tactics in advance so people could know their allies. Hooking up with people who are anti-cop and believe in militant strategy could help us not only create a scene, but shut down rallies, making it impossible for the Klan to have successful appearances.

ARA Shorts

✕ Anti-Racist Activist's Trial Drags On

As you probably know, long-time ARA member and anti-fascist activist Kieran Frazier Knutson is on trial for defending himself against a nazi. He faces up to 10 years in prison. This case has dragged on for two years. The next trial date is Nov. 6th. Show your support by coming to the Hennepin County Government Center at 9 a.m.

✕ Racist Brutality at Mall of America

The Mall of America is proving it can keep up with the country it represents in racist police brutality, and now faces a class action suit. Four Black kids have been brutalized by Mall security, two of which were Mall workers. One of the victims suffered a broken elbow.

Upcoming Events

✕ October 21st, Saturday

Take Back The Night march to protest violence against women. Starting at Loring Park in Minneapolis. Speakers from 5-7pm, march at 7.

✕ October 27th, Friday, 6:30 pm Forum and friendly debate on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, sponsored by the The Twin Cities Coalition to Defend Mumia Abu-Jamal. Powderhorn Community Center in Powderhorn Park.

✕ November 2, Thursday, 7:30pm

"The Killing State," and "Death Row Notebook," videos on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the movement to free him. Sponsored by the The Twin Cities Coalition to Defend Mumia Abu-Jamal and Women Against Military Madness. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Minneapolis, room J.